

NewsLine



South Carolina Oncology Society

www.scosonline.com

July 10, 2009

President's Message

It's hard to believe that August is almost here. The 2009 SCOS Membership Conference will take place at The Charleston Place on August 8th and 9th.

The program will begin with a presentation on Electronic Health Records, which is a central part of the Obama Administration's healthcare reform plans. We will hear an update on Medicare from Palmetto's Medical Director, Dr. Elaine Jeter, and discuss healthcare reform from national and state perspectives.

Our clinical sessions will include information for both medical and radiation oncologists and oncology personnel. The program includes sessions on lymphoma, small-cell lung cancer, breast cancer, and gastrointestinal cancer. Also on the program are presentations regarding Gamma Knife radiosurgery

for brain tumors, the use of radiation in treating lung cancer, and radiation therapy of gynecologic cancers. Speakers from Texas, New York, the Carolinas, and Maryland will be present, and CMEs will be available for those who wish to obtain them.

Last year we had an outstanding attendance and hope the same will occur this year. There will be a Board meeting on Saturday after the Conference, and any member is invited to come to share their thoughts for current or future directions for the Society.

It would be great if at least one or more physicians attended from each practice. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Christian, M.D.

A Hot, Busy Summer is Predicted for Healthcare

The summer of 2009 is turning out to be one of the busiest for healthcare-related issues that we have seen in a long time. Everything from healthcare reform to regulatory updates to changes in commercial reimbursement is on the radar screen. The following is a short list of some of the hot issues ACCC is working on this summer:

Healthcare Reform

■ Congress is actively working on numerous versions of a healthcare reform bill that it hopes to have written by July 4, voted on by the end of July, and sent to the President by October. This is a short timeframe in which to work, and despite some recent setbacks over the high cost of the reform plans, Congress is still attempting to abide by this framework. The reform efforts are expected to cover more of the uninsured and underinsured in the US, while at the same time trimming other areas of Medicare in the hope of saving some money.

Other Healthcare-Related Bills

■ There are a number of other healthcare- and oncology-related bills that are taking a back burner to healthcare reform right now. The Kennedy Cancer Care ALERT Act is one such bill, which will not be addressed until healthcare reform is finished. Efforts are being made to include other bills, such as S. 1221 and H.R. 1392, that would remove the prompt pay discount from the Average Sales Price, in the larger healthcare reform bill, since no stand alone, smaller issue health bill is likely to pass this year outside of the more encompassing healthcare reform bill. We hope that an SGR fix also is included in healthcare reform, but if not, a separate SGR bill will likely happen by the end of the year.

Regulatory Updates

■ CMS recently released rules for hospital outpatient departments and the physician fee schedule. ACCC will work to summarize the rules and provide analysis to the membership within a couple of weeks. Drug and administration reimbursement, evaluation and management reimbursement, and imaging rates are all determined by these rules.

Private Payer Challenges

■ Members are reporting an increase in the number of reimbursement challenges they are facing with private payers. The trend seems to be an increase in the number of prior authorizations required for both medical and radiation oncology. In addition, payers seem to be reducing reimbursement in other areas. Please email me at mfarber@acc-cancer.org about any issues you are having with private payers.

Matthew Farber, MA
Manager, Provider Economics and Public Policy,
ACCC

Interaction with Industry: Different Focus, Increased Value

Although the healthcare landscape is in the midst of change, corporate alliances between the oncology state societies, pharmaceutical companies, and other support organizations continue to be valuable and mutually beneficial for everyone. The new PhRMA guidelines and current economic conditions have all contributed to investigating new areas of support, reevaluating approaches to funders, and using different techniques to navigate grant preparation and submission, where the process seems to be forever changing and evolving.

SCOS continues to revise the way of rethinking about its programs and collaboration with industry partners. We are now re-naming the exhibit hall and calling it the Resource Center with the aim that it will become more about education and information and less emphasis on the "selling" of the products.

As a medical association, we need to remind everyone that the interaction with manufacturers provides insight, education about their current products, their pipeline, and their patient assistance programs. Our supporters, in-turn, have the opportunity to tell their story and hopefully help us solve quandaries and provide the best possible cancer options for patients. See you in the Resource Center!

Linda Jackier Schugar
Manager, Corporate Relations
lschugar@acc-cancer.org



**SCOS Corporate Partners
(as of 6/30/09)**

Platinum
Lilly Oncology

Gold
Abraxis BioScience
Amgen
AstraZeneca
Bayer Healthcare
Pharmaceuticals/
Onyx
Celgene
Centocor Ortho
Biotech
Genentech
Merck & Co

Millennium, The
Takeda Oncology
Company
sanofi-aventis
Wyeth Pharma-
ceuticals

Silver
Eisai, Inc.
Glaxo SmithKline
Oncology Supply/
ION

Thank you for the value
you add to SCOS!

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SOUTH CAROLINA ONCOLOGY SOCIETY

Membership Conference • August 7–8, 2009
The Charleston Place • Charleston, South Carolina

AGENDA

Friday, August 7, 2009

11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Registration, Lunch, Resource Center/Exhibit Hall
1:00 pm – 1:10 pm	Welcome and Introductions Elizabeth Christian, MD, President, SCOS
1:10 pm – 2:10 pm	Electronic Health Records: Managing the Paper to Digital Transmission Carolyn Hartley, CEO, <i>Physicians EHR, Inc.</i>
2:10 pm – 2:55 pm	Medicare Status Report Elaine Jeter, MD, Medical Director, <i>Palmetto GBA</i>
2:55 pm – 3:30 pm	Break, Resource Center/Exhibit Hall
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Legislative Round Table Moderator: Ted Okon MBA, <i>Community Oncology Alliance</i>
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	What's Now and What's Next in Lymphoma Management? Thomas Shea, MD, <i>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Reception

Saturday, August 8, 2009

7:00 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast, Resource Center/Exhibit Hall
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Use of Gamma Knife Radiosurgery for Primary, Metastatic, and Benign Brain Tumors William Regine, MD, <i>University of Maryland School of Medicine</i>
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Breast Cancer Update Maria Theodoulou, MD, <i>Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center</i>
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Break, Resource Center/Exhibit Hall
10:30 am – 11:30 am	Evolving Paradigms in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: Update Based on ASCO 2009 Mark Socinski, MD, <i>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Lung Cancer: 2009 (Radiation) Julian Rosenman, MD, <i>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch, Resource Center/Exhibit Hall
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Radiation Therapy of Gynecologic Cancers Patricia J. Eifel, MD, <i>University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center</i>
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Management of Gastrointestinal Cancer Melanie B. Thomas, MD, <i>Medical University of South Carolina</i>

Agenda subject to change.

For more information about
South Carolina Oncology Society
go to: www.scosonline.com
or call: 301-984-9496, ext. 218

**Save the Date:
August 7–8, 2009**

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Membership Conference
The Charleston Place
Charleston, South Carolina